

## COUNTRY DATA: BANGLADESH: Information from the CIA World Factbook

### INTRODUCTION

Europeans began to set up trading posts in the area of Bangladesh in the 16th century; eventually the British came to dominate the region and it became part of British India. In 1947, West Pakistan and East Bengal (both primarily Muslim) separated from India (largely Hindu) and jointly became the new country of Pakistan. East Bengal became East Pakistan in 1955, but the awkward arrangement of a two-part country with its territorial units separated by 1,600 km left the Bengalis marginalized and dissatisfied. East Pakistan seceded from its union with West Pakistan in 1971 and was renamed Bangladesh. A military-backed, emergency caretaker regime suspended parliamentary elections planned for January 2007 in an effort to reform the political system and root out corruption. In contrast to the strikes and violent street rallies that had marked Bangladeshi politics in previous years, the parliamentary elections finally held in late December 2008 were mostly peaceful and Sheikh Hasina Wajed was reelected prime minister. About a third of this extremely poor country floods annually during the monsoon rainy season, hampering economic development<sup>1</sup>.

### GEOGRAPHY

<b>Location</b>	Southern Asia, bordering the Bay of Bengal, between Burma and India. Most of the country is situated on deltas of large rivers flowing from the Himalayas: the Ganges unites with the Jamuna (main channel of the Brahmaputra) and later joins the Meghna to eventually empty into the Bay of Bengal.
<b>Area</b>	143,998 sq km
<b>Climate</b>	Tropical; mild winter (October to March); hot, humid summer (March to June); humid, warm rainy monsoon (June to October).
<b>Natural Resources</b>	Natural gas, arable land, timber, coal.
<b>Total Renewable Water Resources</b>	1,210.6 cu km (1999)
<b>Freshwater Withdrawal</b>	Total: 79.4 cu km/yr (3%/1%/96%) Per capita: 560 cu m/yr (2000)
<b>Natural Hazards</b>	Droughts; cyclones; much of the country routinely inundated during the summer monsoon season.
<b>Environmental Issues</b>	Many people are landless and forced to live on and cultivate flood-prone land; waterborne diseases prevalent in surface water; water pollution, especially of fishing areas, results from the use of commercial pesticides; ground water contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic; intermittent water shortages because of falling water tables in the northern and central parts of the country; soil degradation and erosion; deforestation; severe overpopulation.

PEOPLE	
Population	156,050,883 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Bengali 98%, other 2% (includes tribal groups, non-Bengali Muslims) (1998)
Religions	Muslim 89.5%, Hindu 9.6%, other 0.9% (2004)
Languages	Bangla (official, also known as Bengali), English
Literacy Rate	47.9%
Major Infectious Diseases	<p><b>Degree of risk:</b> high</p> <p><b>Food or waterborne diseases:</b> bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, and typhoid fever</p> <p><b>Vectorborne diseases:</b> dengue fever and malaria are high risks in some locations</p> <p><b>Water contact disease:</b> leptospirosis</p>
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Parliamentary democracy
Independence	12/16/1971 (from West Pakistan), also known as Victory Day, which commemorates the official creation of the state of Bangladesh
Constitution	11/4/1972
Legal System	Based on English common law
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Rice, jute, tea, wheat, sugarcane, potatoes, tobacco, pulses, oilseeds, spices, fruit; beef, milk, poultry
Industries	Cotton textiles, jute, garments, tea processing, paper newsprint, cement, chemical fertilizer, light engineering, sugar
Import commodities	Machinery and equipment, chemicals, iron and steel, textiles, foodstuffs, petroleum products, cement
Import Partners	China 16.16%, India 12.61%, Singapore 7.55%, Japan 4.63%, Malaysia 4.46% (2009)
Export Commodities	Garments, frozen fish and seafood, jute and jute goods, leather
Export Partners	US 20.24%, Germany 12.75%, UK 8.64%, France 6.48%, Netherlands 5.9% (2009)
Per Capita GDP	\$1500 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	36.3% (2008 est.)

\*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

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<sup>i</sup> Central Intelligence Agency: The World Factbook. Online. Available at: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bg.html>

**COUNTRY: BANGLADESH**

**General<sup>i</sup>**

Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	66.5 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	4.8 years
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$1,587

**Gender Inequality**

Female Seats in Parliament (%)	6.35%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	30.8%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	39.3%
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	61.4%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	85.5%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	18%

**Poverty**

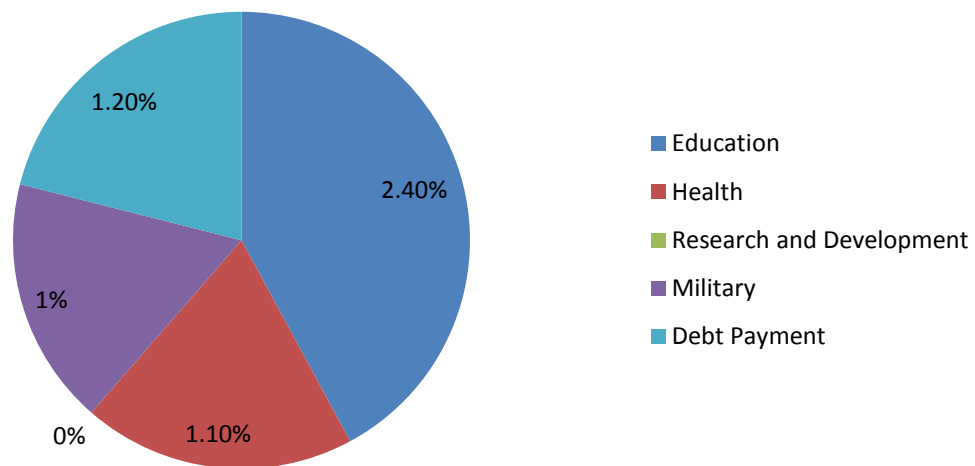
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	49.6%
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**Empowerment**

Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	9%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	7%

<b>Sustainability</b>	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	66%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	34%
Population without Access to Water (%)	20%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	47%
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.49%
<b>Human Security</b>	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	10,000
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	60,000-500,000
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	30%
<b>Demographics</b>	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	28.1%
<b>Health</b>	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	--
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	--
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	--
<b>Other</b>	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$12.9
Population without Electricity (%)	59.3%

## Bangladesh's Public Expenditure



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<sup>i</sup> Human Development Index Report

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2010/>